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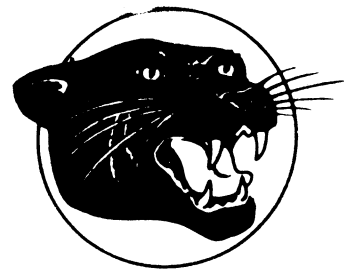
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University wide receiver Jerry Wright (Chicago-Collins), a 5-11, 175 senior, has been chosen by the American Football Coaches Association to the Kodak NCAA I-AA All-American team.

It's the seventh straight year an Eastern player has been picked to the First Team. Wright is also the only player selected from the Mid-Continent Conference.

He caught a school record 76 passes this fall for 1029 yards and seven touchdowns to lead the Panthers to their fifth straight MCC title and a 6-5 seventh straight winning season.

In the process he set an EIU career yardage record of 2522, and finished No. 2 on EIU's career reception list with 150. Wright ranks third in I-AA national stats with 7.6 catches per game.

"This is the capstone on a great collegiate career for Jerry, and certainly a well deserved honor," said EIU coach Al Molde. "His pass catching ability obviously impressed the opposing coaches, and we are pleased they recognized his talents in this manner.

"Jerry not only caught a ton of passes, a lot of them were in clutch situations either with people double covering him or when it was an important down."